Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, as follows. The other claims in the case are included for the convenience of the Examiner.

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1.   [Amended]   Method for operating an account payable computing system, comprising the steps of:

preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable data base original electronic invoices received from a vendor to identify duplicate invoices;

introducing invoices not identified as duplicate invoices into [an] said accounts payable data base; and

electronically rejecting invoices identified as duplicate invoices back to said vendor without introducing said duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

2.   [Amended]   A method for operating a computing system, comprising the steps of:

grabbing an inbound EDI invoice file from a vendor before it is input to an accounts payable database;

5 auditing said inbound EDI invoice file for a duplicate

6 invoice item;

7 upon determining said inbound EDI invoice is a

8 duplicate <u>invoice having a same vendor invoice</u>

9 <u>designation, same purchase order number and same item</u>

10 <u>number</u>, creating [a] <u>an electronic</u> duplicate invoice

11 transaction back to said vendor; and

12 posting to said accounts payable database only those

13 invoices determined not to be duplicates.

1 3.   The method of claim 2, said auditing step comprising

2 the further steps of:

3 first sorting said inbound EDI invoice against an

4 accounts payable production table for same vendor and

5 same vendor invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same

7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same

9 items billed on purchase order;

10   fourth sorting hits from said third sorting to identify

11   said inbound EDI invoice as a duplicate invoice if it

12   contains an item having a net sum greater than zero.

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1   4.   [Amended] Method for operating a computing system

2   responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a

3   vendor, comprising the steps of:

4   grabbing said input invoice before it is input to an

5   accounts payable database;

6   automatically identifying previously received invoices

7   from said vendor having the same vendor invoice

8   identifier;

9   automatically identifying said previously received

10   invoices having the same vendor invoice identifier

11   [any] and items corresponding to items on said input

12   invoice;

13   automatically calculating the net sum of items on said

14   input invoice having corresponding items on said

15   previously received invoices;

16   for an input invoice having an item with a net sum

17   greater than zero, communicating [a] an automated

18   duplicate invoice rejection message back to said vendor

19   without posting said input invoice to said accounts

20   payable database; and

21   for an input invoice having no item with a net sum

22   greater than zero, posting said input invoice to said

23   accounts payable database.

1   5.   [Amended]   A program storage device readable by a

2   machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

3   executable by a machine to perform method steps for

4   processing electronic input invoices from a vendor, said

5   method steps comprising:

6   automatically preprocessing said input invoices to

7   identify duplicate invoices;

8   preprocessing before introduction into an accounts

9   payable data base said input invoices received from a

10   vendor to identify as duplicate invoices those said

11   invoices having an exact match on, vendor invoice

12   number, purchase order number and item number, and

13   having a sum greater than zero;

14   introducing invoices not identified as duplicate

15   invoices into an accounts payable data base for

16   payment; and

17   automatically rejecting invoices identified as

18   duplicate invoices back to said vendor without

19   introducing said duplicate invoices into said accounts

20   payable data base for payment.

1   6.   [Amended] A program storage device readable by a

2   machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

3   executable by a machine to perform method steps for

4   operating a computing system responsive to receipt of an

5   electronic input invoice from a vendor, said method steps

6   comprising:

7   grabbing said input invoice before it is input to an

8   accounts payable database;

9   identifying previously received invoices from said

10   vendor having the same vendor invoice identifier;

11   identifying said previously received invoices having

12   the same vendor invoice identifier any items

13   corresponding to items on said input invoice;

14   calculating the net sum of items on said input invoice

15   having corresponding items on said previously received

16   invoices;

17   for an input invoice having an item with a net sum

18   greater than zero, communicating a duplicate invoice

19   rejection message back to said vendor based upon said

20   grabbing, identifying and calculating steps without

21   posting said input invoice to said accounts payable

22   database; and

23   for an input invoice having no item with a net sum

24   greater than zero, posting said input invoice to said

25   accounts payable database.

1   7.   [Amended]   An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a computer useable medium having computer readable program

3   code means embodied therein for operating a computing system

4   responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a

5   vendor, the computer readable program means in said article

6   of manufacture comprising:

7   computer readable program code means for causing a

8   computer to effect grabbing said input invoice before

9   it is input to an accounts payable database;

10   computer readable program code means for causing a

11   computer to effect identifying previously received

12   invoices from said vendor having the same vendor

13   invoice identifier;

14   computer readable program code means for causing a

15   computer to effect identifying said previously received

16   invoices having the same vendor invoice identifier any

17   items corresponding to items on said input invoice;

18   computer readable program code means for causing a

19   computer to effect calculating the net sum of items on

20   said input invoice having corresponding items on said

21   previously received invoices;

22   computer readable program code means for causing a

23   computer to effect for an input invoice having an item

24   with a net sum greater than zero, communicating a

25   duplicate invoice rejection message back to said

26   vendor; and

27   computer readable program code means for causing a

28   computer to effect for an input invoice having no item

29   with a net sum greater than zero, posting said input

30   invoice to said accounts payable database.

1   8.   [Amended]   An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a computer useable medium having computer readable

3   program code means embodied therein for processing

4   electronic input invoices from a vendor, the computer

5   readable program means in said article of manufacture

6   comprising:

7   computer readable program code means for causing a

8   computer to effect preprocessing said input invoices to

9   identify as duplicate invoices those invoices have an

10   exact match on four data points including purchase

11   order number, vendor invoice number, item number, and

12   sum greater than zero;

13   computer readable program code means for causing a

14   computer to effect introducing invoices not identified

15   as duplicate invoices into an accounts payable data

16   base for payment; and

17   computer readable program code means for causing a

18   computer to effect rejecting invoices identified as

19   duplicate invoices back to said vendor without

20   introducing said duplicate invoices into said accounts

21   payable data base for payment.

1   9.   A computing system responsive to receipt of an

2   electronic input invoice from a vendor, comprising:

3   means for grabbing said input invoice before it is

4   input to an accounts payable database;

5   means for identifying previously received invoices from

6   said vendor having the same vendor invoice identifier;

7   means for identifying said previously received invoices

8   having the same vendor invoice identifier any items

9   corresponding to items on said input invoice;

10   means for calculating the net sum of items on said